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Ryuu-wa Tasogare no Yume wo Miru
CHAPTER 1
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A.D. 20XX
PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC
CYTOLOGY RESEARCH FACILITY
STOP!!!
STOP!!
A HEIST AT THE RESEARCH FACILITY!!! BEHOLD THE EVENT THAT SHALL SOON SHAKE THE WORLD!!!
<CLANK>
<WHAAAM!>
ガタン
<RATTLE RATTLE>
HELLO, DIRECTOR?! WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY!
PRO-FESSOR HISA-HA...
HE ESCAPED WITH THE NATIVE CELL!!!

I would like to find someone to love...
even just one person would be enough.
Please envelop this lonely soul with warmth.
Wishing for that special someone.
A HALF DRAGON HALF HUMAN YOUTH X AN ASSASSIN WITH A PROSTHETIC LEG!!!
A TALE OF AN UNUSUAL COMBO!!!
A STYLISH MODERN DARK FANTASY!!!
半人半竜の少年×義足の殺し屋!!
異端のコンビを描く!
スタイリッシュ現代ダークファンタジー!!!
竜は黄昏の夢をみる
CHAPTER 1
第1話
竜の棲む島
THE DRAGON INHABITED ISLAND
姫川 明
Akira Himekawa

5 YEARS LATER
OKINAWA REGION
AKAI ISLAND
KOYOMI IS SO SLOW
AND TO THINK SHE WAS THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED TO TAKE THIS GUY OUT FOR GRAZING TOGETHER

BUT I'M FEELING REALLY HUNGRY
KIYA!
KIYA! ARE YOU THERE?

<SPLASH>
ザバーン

EVEN THOUGH YOU WARNED ME MANY TIMES NOT TO "EAT" OUTSIDE THE HOUSE...
SORRY, KOYOMI.
I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF.
I'M SUCH A LET-DOWN... DO YOU HATE ME NOW?
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD HATE YOU. KIYA
BUT HUMANS ARE ABSOLUTELY OFF-LIMITS OKAY?
OK!
IF I DO AS YOU SAY... WILL YOU LIKE ME?

OF COURSE
IT'S OBVIOUS I LIKE YOU.
splash splash
Hoo-ray!
Oooh!
I'LL KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM FATHER.
SO HELP ME MILK THE GOATS.
SURE!
KIYA! PUT YOUR TAIL AWAY BEFORE WEARING YOUR SHORTS!
PUT YOUR CLOTHES ON! I TOLD YOU NOT TO RUN AROUND BUTT NAKED OUTSIDE!

LET'S GO TO THE OCEAN TOGETHER.
KIYA, WAIT—
KIYA...
MY... ADORA-BLE

I LIKE YOU VERY MUCH.
SO ALWAYS STAY
BY MY SIDE.

MY NAME IS KIYA.
WE'RE A FAMILY OF THREE.
KOYOMI, THE BIG SIS,
AND FATHER, THE SCIENTIST
FOOD
FOOD
gobble
Fwah
KIYA, DON'T JUST GOBBLE DOWN YOUR FOOD!
I PLACED A KNIFE AND FORK THERE FOR YOU FOR A REASON
SHE NAGS AT ME SOMETIMES, THOUGH
munch
munch
COME ON GIVE IT A TRY
YOU USE THE KNIFE TO SLICE THE MEAT TO TINY BITE-SIZED PIECES

JUST LIKE THAT, YUP...
IT SOOTHES ME TO FEEL KOYOMI'S WARM SKIN AGAINST MINE.
slice slice
I'LL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE KOYOMI HAPPY.
THERE YOU GO!!!
WOW, YOU DID IT!!!
sigh!
gulp!

I'M DOING THIS FOR KIYA'S SAKE!
Jok
IT'S LIKE PLAYING HOUSE.
chuckle
TABLE MANNERS WHILE EATING RAW MEAT?
DON'T POLLUTE KIYA'S MIND BY EDUCATING HIM
THERE'S NO NEED FOR HIM TO LIVE LIKE A HUMAN
I ALREADY TOLD YOU.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
FATHER, ALL YOU DO IS RESEARCH! YOU DON'T TEACH KIYA A THING!
Ko... Koyomi...
SHOULDN'T YOU CONSIDER THESE THINGS SINCE YOU'RE BASICALLY HIS PARENT?!
WHEN THE TIME COMES, KIYA WILL BE THE ONE SUFFERING.
ARE YOU PLANNING TO ISOLATE KIYA FROM SOCIETY FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE?!

THANKS FOR THE MEAL.
IT'S NOT KIYA'S FAULT.
CLUNK
DON'T FIGHT BECAUSE OF ME!
STOP IT, YOU TWO!
RATTLE
WHY CAN'T FATHER AND KOYOMI GET along?
EVEN THOUGH KOYOMI DENIES IT, I KNOW IT'S BECAUSE OF ME.
ISN'T IT, FATHER?
HER BEING ANGRY

ISN'T SHE ANGRY BECAUSE FATHER WASN'T BEING NICE?
HEARING WHAT YOU JUST SAID, I FEEL BAD FOR KOYOMI
THAT'S ENOUGH TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES AND GET INSIDE THE CAPSULE.
TAP TAP TAP
CLACK
.. IS JUST ANOTHER ONE OF HER FEMALE-SPECIFIC HYSTERIAS. DON'T PAY IT ANY ATTENTION
THIS WAY YOU GET TO HEAR OTHER PEOPLE'S TRUE FEELINGS.
FIGHTING ISN'T ALL THAT BAD, Y'KNOW.
"TRUE FEELINGS"? WHAT'S THAT?
"SEEDLING FOR GROWTH"?
TO HUMANS, SUFFERING IS LIKE THE SEEDLING FOR GROWTH
BUT IT'S NOT ALL THAT BAD, EITHER.
IT'S ONE OF THE TROUBLES OF GROWING UP
SIMPLY PUT, IT'S BEING "SUPERFICIAL", GOT IT?
ESPECIALLY WHEN ONE REACHES ADULTHOOD. IT GETS DIFFICULT AS HUMANS HIDE THEIR TRUE FEELINGS BEHIND OUTWARD EXPRESSIONS AND WORDS.
NOT AT ALL.

VOICE OF THE HEART...
LISTEN WELL TO THE VOICE OF YOUR HEART.
AND WHEN THAT TIME COMES, IF YOU ARE IN DOUBT.
FOLLOW THE STRONGEST AND LOUDEST VOICE.
FATHER'S PURPOSE IS TO WATCH OVER YOU AS YOU GROW UP.
I'M NOT HERE TO HINDER YOU.
I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND OUT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO IN DUE TIME.

YOUR KIND DID NOT. AND THAT'S HOW THEY BECAME EXTINCT.
WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, YOU HAVE TO BARE YOUR FANGS AND FIGHT, KIYA.
I HATE FIGHTING
THAT'S HOW I CAME TO DO THE THINGS I LIKE AS WELL.
PROBABLY CREATED SOME ENEMIES ON THE WAY. THOUGH.
WATER IS STREAM-ING NOW. SO RELAX.
splash splash
A SCARY THOUGHT.
THAT'S
DO I HAVE TO FIGHT SOMEONE
IN ORDER TO DO THE THINGS I WANT?

YOU MAY RETURN TO ARCH TYPE.
<COUGH>
WHAT I WANT TO DO
ARE NOT THINGS LIKE FIGHTING OR HAVING CONFLICTS...
<PANT>

YOU CANNOT LIVE ON WITHOUT THE CLEAN WATER HERE.
IF ONE DAY YOU ARE ABLE TO LEAVE THIS PLACE,
IT'LL ALSO BE THE END OF THIS NATIVE CELL EXPE-RIMENT

I WILL PROTECT KIYA.
SO HE WILL NOT JUST BE A MATERIAL FOR YOUR EXPERIMENT.
TO GIVE BIRTH TO KIYA, YOU USED MOTHER.
AND NOW, YOU'RE USING ME.
FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR EXPERIMENT, YOU NONCHALANTLY SACRIFICE ANYTHING, FATHER
WITH SOMEONE.
AND TO BE IN LOVE.
TO BE ABLE TO LAUGH WITH YOU.
TO BE HELD.
ALL I WANT IS...
KOYOMI-
DON'T
FIGHT...

MEANWHILE....
ON THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE GLOBE,
IN EUROPE...
KONK
KONK
IT'S
DONE, TJ.
KONK
YOUR
NEW "LEFT
LEG" IS
COMPLETE.
IT'S A
SLIGHTLY
OLDER
MODEL, BUT
I ASSURE
YOU THAT
IT IS VERY
STURDY.
THANK
YOU
I CAN
FIGHT
AGAIN
WITH
THIS.

THIS PROSTHETIC LEG...
...IS MY BADGE OF HONOR.
SO THE GUY I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE HAS RETURNED.
SNAP
SNAP
YO!
HEY SCUD.
RIGHT BACK AT YOU. TO HAVE TO SEE YOUR FACE FIRST THING TODAY HAS SULLIED MY MORNING.
SORRY FOR HAVING SUCH A FACE.
THUNK
WHAT'S WITH THAT PIECE OF JUNK?
COULDN'T YOU HAVE BOUGHT SOMETHING BETTER?
FOR A TOP TRAPPER, THIS IS RIDICULOUS.

TJ YOU HAVE HEARD OF THE "NATIVE CELL". HAVE YOU NOT?
"NATIVE CELL"?
I'M AFRAID I HAVENT.
THEY WERE DEPICTED AS "WISE MEN WITH SNAKE-LIKE HEADS"
LEGEND CAN BE SEEN ON THE WALL MURALS IN ANCIENT SUMERIAN RUINS
IT MAY SOUND LIKE ITS SOMETHING OFF FROM THE IMAGINATION, BUT THEY TRULY EXISTED.
ARCH TYPE?
IT WAS COMPLETED BY THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT OF OUR ORGANIZATION "ILUMINE".
IT'S A HORRIFIC CELL WITH ARCH TYPE PROPER TIES.

THERE WAS A PREDATION PROJECT AIMED TO REVIVE THE ARCH TYPE IN THE 21ST CENTURY.
A TEAM LED BY A JAPANESE PROFESSOR NAMED HIRASAWA BROUGHT BACK A SAMPLE PART
OF AN ARCH TYPE'S BODY THEY FOUND IN THE SIBERIAN PERMAFROST.
HOWEVER THERE WAS SOME DNA MISSING SO THEY REPLACED IT WITH A HUMAN'S
THE COMPLETED CELL WAS NAMED "NATIVE CELL".
*IPS CELLS: INDUCED PLURIPOTENT STEM CELLS: ADULT CELLS THAT WERE GENETICALLY REPROGRAMMED INTO AN EMBRYONIC STEM CELL LIKE STATE.
THIS CELL FAR SURPASSES IPS CELLS* IN PLURIPOTENCY, DIFFERENTIATION,
AND SELF-REGENERATING ABILITIES.
MEANING—

THERE'S THE POSSIBILITY...
HOWEVER, THE ALL-IMPORTANT PROFESSOR R. N. AWAY WITH THE FERTILIZED CELL.
IT HAS BEEN FIVE YEARS.
...THAT IT HAS THE ABILITY TO TRANSFORM INTO BEING BETWEEN A HUMAN OR A DRAGON.
BUT THE SEARCH FOR THEM NEVER STOPPED.
FLIP
A WEEK AGO THEY WERE FINALLY FOUND.
IT'S HARD TO SEE BECAUSE IT WAS TAKEN AT NIGHT BUT YOU CAN TELL, RIGHT?
HERE'S ANOTHER ONE.

THIS IS THE FIRST ASSIGNMENT OF YOUR COMEBACK
HUNT HIM DOWN TJ
THIS YOUNG BOY... HE CARRIES THE NATIVE CELL?
BUT HE LOOKS AROUND 13-14 YEARS OLD...
YES, SIR
SINCE HE'LL BE YOUR NEW PARTNER.
THE CONDITION IS YOU MUST CAPTURE HIM ALIVE.
!?

* DEICAPÉ -> WHAT THEY CALL "BEAST SERVANTS" IN THIS STORY.

I'M SORRY FOR HEIDI'S DEATH, AND I UNDERSTAND YOUR SENTIMENTS...
HOWEVER, AS A RULE, EACH TEAM MUST BE COMPOSED OF A DEICAPÉ* AND A TRAPPER BESIDES...
PLUS, I HAVE NO NEED FOR A PARTNER!!
...IS THIS SOME SORT OF HUMOUR NOIR?
THAT BOY'S A GUINEA PIG.

WHETHER YOU RETIRE WITH A SEVERANCE PAY OR PAIR UP WITH A PARTNER, IT'S YOUR CHOICE.
THE ORGANIZATION WILL BE FINE WHICHEVER PATH YOU TAKE
HUH -
I REFUSE!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTINUE OPS ALONE WITH THAT BODY.
WITH THE SEVERANCE PAY YOU CAN AFFORD A BETTER PROS-THETIC LEG
AFTER PUTTING MY LIFE ON THE LINE FOR SEVEN YEARS. THIS IS THE REWARD I GET?

THE LOCATION IS OKINAWA, AKAI ISLAND.
THE MISSION'S CODE NAME WILL BE...
"DRAGON HUNTING"!
...
COME, LET'S DRY UP YOUR BODY.
SHOULD I SAY "GOOD MORNING"?
YOU MUST BE TIRED
Pant Pant

ARE YOU FEELING BAD?
WHAT'S WRONG?
COULD YOU GO WAIT OVER THERE FOR A BIT?
I'LL DRY MYSELF SO...
KIYA?
?
I'M FINE !!!
HE HAS NOW PASSED CHILDHOOD STAGE.
KIYA MATURES AFTER EACH SLEEP CYCLE.
HE'S EMBARRASSED SO, WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO OVER THERE.
!?
BUT.. JUST RECENTLY ..

I WONDER WHY
WHY IS IT WHEN I'M SEEN ON MY HUMAN FORM I GET FLUSTERED EASILY?
EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT EMBARRASSED AT ALL IN MY ORIGINAL STATE.
KOYOMI.
KIYA
IT'S KIND OF SCARY.
LATELY, I'VE BEEN NOTICING A LOT OF CHANGES WITHIN MYSELF
I DO FEEL A LITTLE BIT LONELY THAT YOU'RE CATCHING UP, THOUGH..
...BECAUSE I'VE BEEN RAISING YOU SINCE YOU WERE A BABY
I GOTTA BE HAPPIER ABOUT YOUR GROWING UP.
NO, IT'S ALRIGHT
SORRY ABOUT EARLIER

LOOK, A SHIP!
KOYOMI.
AH!
I'VE BEEN RAISING YOU LOVINGLY...
EVER SO CAREFULLY...
KIYA
WHERE DO YOU THINK THAT SHIP IS HEADING?
ONE DAY, I HOPE TO SEE THE WORLD OUTSIDE OF THIS ISLAND TOO
THERE'S THIS BOOK THAT I READ IN FATHER'S LAB... IT SAID THERE'S QUITE A BIT OF "LAND" HERE ON "EARTH"...
THIS ISLAND WILL BE...?
KIYA. THIS ISLAND WILL ALWAYS BE...
THAT IS...
HOW COME?
IT MAY BE FOR THE BEST IF YOU DON'T GET TOO INTERESTED
KIYA.
IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD
HIS FACIAL EXPRESSIONS AND TONE OF VOICE...
BADUMP
ARE DIFFERENT... FROM BEFORE...

JUST THE TWO OF US!
?
KIYA.
LET'S KEEP IT A SECRET FROM FATHER AND GET OUT OF THIS ISLAND!
<WHIR WHIR WHIR>
ヒュン
ヒュン
ヒュン
<FWAP FWAP>
DH*, STANDBY FOR TAKE-OFF.
TJ!
*SHORT FOR MISSION CODE-NAME "DRA-GON HUN-TING"
STANDBY OK. READY FOR TAKE-OFF.

JUST DISCHARGED AND YOU ARE ALREADY GOING OUT FOR A MISSION
YOUR LEG ALL GOOD NOW?
THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS LET US CONGRATULATE YOU FOR YOUR COMEBACK! YOU'RE ACTING SO COLD!
I TOLD THAT BLABBERMOUTH SCUD NOT TO TELL
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING
WHY WOULD I BOTHER TO REPORT ABOUT YOUR RETURN!
But you did. BF
IT'S NOT LIKE YOUR COMEBACK IS OFFICIAL YET.
WHO KNOWS IF YOU'LL STILL BE FUNCTIONAL OR NOT.
THEN ALL THAT'S LEFT IS FOR ME TO TAKE YOUR SPOT AS THE TOP TRAPPER
RETIRE ALREADY, TJ!

TJ, I'M PLACING MY TRUST IN YOUR EXCELLENT CAPABILITIES AS A TRAPPER.
OVER.
DH.
DH, I REPEAT. YOU MUST BRING HIM BACK UNHARMED.
WHAT IS IT.
MAY I PLEASE SAY SOME-THING.
DON'T FUCK WITH ME.
MUST BE PRETTY PISSED
THAT'S A RATHER FOUL REMARK COMING FROM HIM...
WHY WOULD WE KEEP IT A SECRET FROM FATHER?
LEAVE THE ISLAND BY OUR-SELVES...

FATHER INTENDS TO KEEP YOU HERE IN THIS TINY ISLAND. YOU MUSN'T TELL HIM!
I WANT TO SHOW YOU A BIGGER AND MORE VIBRANT WORLD!
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH... I'VE ALREADY WRITTEN A LETTER TO MY AUNTIE.
C'MON, KIYA! LET'S GO!
WOULDN'T IT BE SO WONDERFUL TO GO ON A TRIP BY OURSELVES?
BUT... I...
What's Tokyo?
LET'S GO TO TOKYO! MY MOTHER'S RELATIVES ARE THERE AND THAT IS THE PLACE WHERE I GREW UP UNTIL I WAS NINE!
I WANT THE THREE OF US TO BE TOGETHER FOREVER.
IF FATHER COMES.. THEN I'LL GO, TOO!
HOW MANY TIMES MUST I TELL YOU?!
FATHER'S UP TO NO GOOD!
THIS IS SO WEIRD.
KOYOMI,
YOU SAY THAT AS IF IT'S FOR MY SAKE, BUT ..

ALWAYS THINKING OF KIYA...
ALL I DO IS FOR KIYA'S SAKE...
I AM...
WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING?
DON'T YOU JUST HATE FATHER?
AND SIMPLY WANT TO TROUBLE HIM?
ME?
I AM MYSELF.
NOT KOYOMI'S BABY!
I...
I'M SOR...
AH...
<JOLT>

Ugh...
No
Ooo
Ooo!!!
Jolt

WHY DID I SAY THINGS THAT WOULD MAKE HER CRY?!
I LIKE HER SO MUCH!
DEEP INSIDE
IT HURTS...!
WRINGING SO TIGHTLY...
IT'S SO P..INFUL!
IF I TELL FATHER,
WILL HE FIX ME UP?

...I NEED TO APOLO-GIZE.
I MUST TELL HER HOW MUCH I LOVE HER
AND HOW MUCH I NEED HER TO HOLD ME
CLICK
whirrr
whirrr

!?
THE HOUSE!
rustle
<BLAST>
<BAM!>

FATHER!!!
KOYOMI!!!
SO HOT!
OUCH!
Step

<FWISH>
<WHIRRR>
W...
WHO ARE YOU...?!

<GRAB>
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU..
GUINEA PIG.
THEIR FATEFUL ENCOUNTER... WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO KIYAZ?
TO BE CONTINUED...